Application of rehabilitation and resettlement Act, 1954 to PoK Refugees

1607. SHRI B.P. SINGHAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not applying Central Act of 1954 for rehabilitation and resettlement for refugees to PoK refugees; and

(b) the reasons of not reacting when Jammu and Kashmir Government created an authority titled Custodian of Evacuee Properties to safeguard properties of Muslims who had since migrated to Pakistan and settled there permanently as citizens of Pakistan, and for creating a department to register properties of PoK refugees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND): (a) The Displaced Persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Act, 1954 is a Central Act applicable only to displaced persons from West Pakistan who migrated to India due to the creation of Dominions of India and Pakistan in 1947.

(b) No claims for compensation in lieu of the properties left behind by displaced persons from Pak occupied Kashmir were invited as PoK has always been treated as an integral part of India.

PoK refugees

1608. SHRI B.P. SINGHAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the PoK refugees have still been living as second class citizens of the Republic of India after 56 years of Independence;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have set up any Commission/Committee for registration of claims of PoK refugees for the properties left behind by them in PoK so as to pay them compensation and settle them permanently; and

(d) if so, the results thereof; if not, the reasons therefor?